

CHAPTER

XXIII. 1811.

M. Czernischeff—Dissimulation of Napoleon — Napoleon and Alexander-Josephine's foresight respecting the affair? of Spain —• My visits to Mal-maison — Grief of Josephine — Tears and the toilet—Vast extent of the Empire — List of persons condemned to death and banishment in Piedmont — Observation of Alfieri respecting the Spaniards—Success in Spain — Check of Masse'na in Portugal — Money lavished by the English — Bertrand sent to Illyria, and Marmont to Portugal — Situation of the French army —Assembling of the Cortes — Europe sacrificed to the Continental system—Conversation with Murat in the Champs Elysees — New titles and old names — Napoleon's dislike of literary men —Odes, etc., on the marriage of Napoleon — Chateaubriand and Lemercier • — Death of Ch&iier—Chateaubriand elected his successor — His discourse read by Napoleon — Bonaparte compared to Nero—Suppression of the *Mercure* — M. de Chateaubriand ordered to leave Paris— MM. Lemercier and Esme'nard presented to the Emperor — Birth of the King of Borne — France in 1811.

SIJSTCE my return to France I had heard much of the intrigues of M. Czernischeff, an *aide de camp* of the Emperor of Russia, who, under the pretext of being frequently sent to compliment Napoleon on the part of the Emperor Alexander, performed, in fact, the office of a spy. The conduct of Napoleon with regard to M. Czernischeff at that period struck me as singular, especially after the intelligence which before my departure from Hamburg I had transmitted to him respecting the dissatisfaction of Russia and her hostile inclinations. It is therefore clear to me that Bonaparte was well aware of the real object of M. Czernischeff's mission, and that if he appeared to give credit to the increasing professions of his friendship it was only because he still wished, as he formerly . did, that Russia might so far commit herself as to afford him a fair pretext for the commencement of hostilities in the north. M. Czernischeff first arrived in Paris shortly after the interview at Erfurt, and after that period was almost constantly on the road between Paris and St. Petersburg; it has